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Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce
Newsletter Entry

Maine Will Lose Out if Fossil Fuel Referendum Passes

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Dirty Energy's Referendum

On November 2, 2021, citizens of Maine will [vote](#) on a referendum ballot question which aims to stop the Clean Energy Corridor (NECEC). The fossil fuel companies that paid to get this question on the ballot want to stop clean energy from coming into Maine and New England and they want to place new [restrictions and stipulations](#) on the development of future clean energy projects.

The ballot question that could end Maine's development in clean energy reads: "Do you want to ban the construction of high-impact electric transmission lines in the Upper Kennebec Region and to require the Legislature to vote on other such projects in Maine retroactive to 2014, with a two-thirds vote required if a project uses public lands?"

Impartial, publicly-accountable agencies have devoted more than 30 months to reviewing the Clean Energy Corridor project; they took into account input from all stakeholders, and after having arrived at reasoned conclusions based on evidence and feedback, granted the necessary approvals. This referendum would have fact-based conclusions thrown into the political arena.

The following should be clear: Derailing this important clean energy project would negatively affect Maine workers, ratepayers, small business owners, taxpayers, and Maine's environment.

Lost Benefits to Maine

Maine will miss out on significant benefits should the referendum pass.

- Guaranteed, clean discounted energy for Maine.
- [1,600 good paying jobs](#) that will be created by the project - [80% of which](#) will go to Maine workers.
- [\\$140 million](#) in direct electric rate relief.
- [\\$350 million](#) in indirect electric rate relief over the next 15 years.
- An additional [\\$50 million](#) in rate relief for lower-income Mainers.
- [\\$15 million](#) investment in broadband infrastructure for Somerset and Franklin Counties.
- [\\$15 million](#) in electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Over [\\$10 million](#) in funding for economic development and tourism promotion in Western Maine
- [\\$300 million in contracts](#) to Maine construction companies, hurting local small business owners and entrepreneurs.
- [\\$200 million](#) investment in efficiency upgrades to Maine's electric grid.

- [\\$18 million in local yearly tax](#) revenues for host communities.
- [\\$573 million](#) in projected growth to Maine's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) .

Environmental Facts

In addition to being financed by out-of-state oil and gas companies, the petition drive that led to the question getting on the November ballot was built on misinformation. One issue on which NECEC opponents pushed a great deal of misinformation was the environment.

Here are some facts.

The NECEC will involve [zero clearcutting](#) of Maine's untouched forest and no destruction of public lands. Two-thirds of the transmission line will be built on existing power lines, while the remaining [53 miles will be built](#) in an area that has already been the site of commercial logging for a century.

The NECEC will avoid [3 million metric tons](#) of carbon emissions in the region every year, the equivalent of annually removing 700,000 cars from the roads.

Unlike oil and gas, hydroelectricity is clean and renewable.

Vote No on the Referendum

If you agree Mainers deserve good-paying jobs, clean and renewable electricity, and electric rate relief, you should oppose the fossil fuel industry's referendum to stop the NECEC.